

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
WACO DIVISION**

AML IP, LLC,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	Civil Action No. 6:21-cv-00605
v.)	
)	
ALDI, INC. and ALDI (TEXAS) L.L.C.)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendant.)	

PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

AML IP, LLC (“AML”) files this Original Complaint and demand for jury trial seeking relief from patent infringement of the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,876,979 (“the ‘979 patent”) (referred to as the “Patent-in-Suit”) by Aldi, Inc. and Aldi (Texas) L.L.C. collectively (“Aldi”).

I. THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff AML is a Texas Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business located in Harris County, Texas.

2. On information and belief, Aldi is a corporation existing under the laws of the State of New York, with a principal place of business located at 1220 N. Valley Mills Dr., Waco, Texas 76710. On information and belief, Aldi sells and offers to sell products and services throughout Texas, including in this judicial district, and introduces products and services that perform infringing methods or processes into the stream of commerce knowing that they would be sold in Texas and this judicial district. Aldi may be served through its registered agent C T Coporation System, 1999 Bryan St., Ste. 900 Dallas, TX 75201 or anywhere they may be found.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has original subject-matter jurisdiction over the entire action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because Plaintiff's claim arises under an Act of Congress relating to patents, namely, 35 U.S.C. § 271.

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because: (i) Defendant is present within or has minimum contacts within the State of Texas and this judicial district; (ii) Defendant has purposefully availed itself of the privileges of conducting business in the State of Texas and in this judicial district; and (iii) Plaintiff's cause of action arises directly from Defendant's business contacts and other activities in the State of Texas and in this judicial district.

5. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(b). Defendant has committed acts of infringement and has a regular and established place of business in this District. Further, venue is proper because Defendant conducts substantial business in this forum, directly or through intermediaries, including: (i) at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein; and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to individuals in Texas and this District.

III. INFRINGEMENT

A. Infringement of the '979 Patent

6. On April 5, 2005, U.S. Patent No. 6,876,979 ("the '979 patent", attached as Exhibit A) entitled "Electronic Commerce Bridge System" was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. AML IP, LLC owns the '979 patent by assignment.

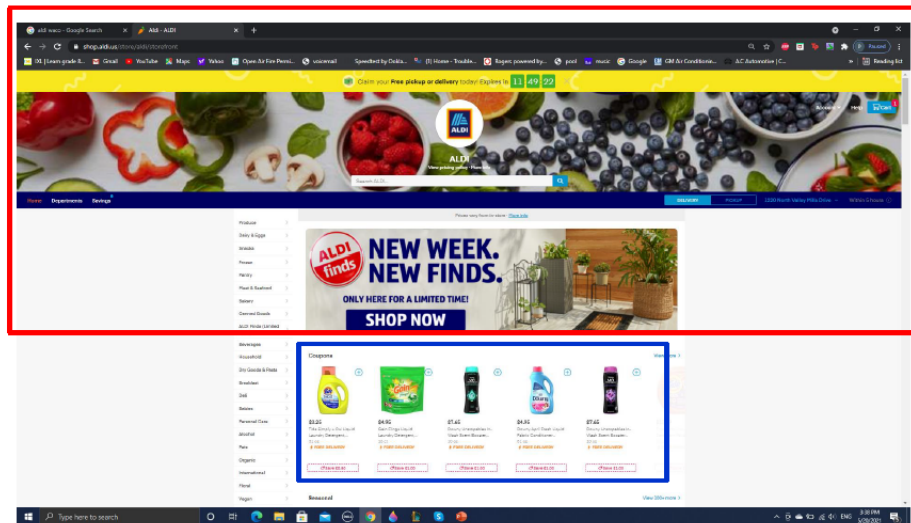
7. The '979 patent relates to a novel and improved methods and apparatuses for conducting electronic commerce.

8. Aldi maintains, operates, and administers payment products and services that facilitate purchases from a vendor using a bridge computer that infringes one or more claims of the '979 patent, including one or more of claims 1-13, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant put the inventions claimed by the '979 Patent into service (i.e., used them); but for Defendant's actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving Defendant's products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant's acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to perform, and Defendant's procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.

9. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the following preliminary table:

1. A method for using an electronic commerce system having a bridge computer to allow a user at a user device to make a product purchase at a purchase price from a given vendor having a web site provided by a vendor computer over a communications network,

For example, Aldi provides a **web site** for **electronic commerce** that allows a user to make a **product purchase**



<https://shop.aldi.us/store/aldi/storefront>

wherein the vendor is associated with at least one of a plurality of service providers wherein each of the plurality of service providers has a service provider computer, and wherein the user has a user account maintained by at least one of the plurality of service providers, the method comprising:

For example, Aldi is a service provider that uses a computer to manage a user account.

1. Shipping Info Required

Shipping Address

Select your country [View all countries](#)

First Name Last Name

Street Address

Organization, Suite Number

Apartment, Suite, or P.O. Box

City State

Zip Code

Shipping Options (recommended)

Priority Mail® (2-3 business days) \$12.00

STANDARD (3-5 business days) \$7.00

FAST DAY (1-2 business days) \$14.00

OVERSEAS (4-6 business days) \$20.00

2. Payment Info Required

MAX & GIFT CARD

☐ Credit or Debit Card

Credit Card Number

Exp (MM/YY) Security Code

Phone Number

Billing Address

☒ Same as Shipping Address

☐ PayPal

☐ Available for instant checkout from: [Amazon](#)

Shopping Bag

ONE PROCEED ONLY FUTURE STORES

SALE

1 item(s) 12.0000

Subtotal \$12.00

Shipping \$7.00

Tax \$0.00

Order Summary

Subtotal \$12.00

Shipping \$7.00

Tax \$0.00

ORDER TOTAL \$19.00

You will receive your order within 2-3 business days.

☐ Include free gift receipt

<https://shop.aldi.us/store/aldi/storefront>

debiting the user's account by the purchase price when the user purchases the product from the given vendor;

For example, Aldi debits the user account when the user purchases a product.

instacart

Delivery 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Pickup 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

1220 North Valley Mills Drive
11000, TX 75120

Delivery time
Today, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Delivery instructions
Leave it at my door if I am not around

Mobile number
254-444-6667

Add a payment method

Credit or debit card
Credit, debit, or gift card. No cash, no check, no money order.

Card Number Expiration CVC

Billing address
1220 North Valley Mills Drive

☐ I'm not a robot

Summary

Subtotal \$12.00

Delivery \$7.00

Service fee \$0.00

Ext. Delivery fee \$1.11

Delivery Tip \$0.00

Total \$18.55

Add promo code or gift card

By clicking your order, you agree to the terms of the Instacart Service Agreement. You will receive more information about the Instacart Service Agreement in your email and on the Instacart website.

Confirm payment method

1 item

<https://shop.aldi.us/store/aldi/storefront>

determining from among the plurality of service providers, using the bridge computer, whether the given vendor is associated with the same service provider with which the user's account is maintained or is associated with a different service provider; and

For example, The reference describes **determining from among the plurality of service providers, using the bridge computer, whether the given vendor is associated with the same service provider with which the user's account is maintained or is associated with a different service provider.**

The screenshot shows the Instacart checkout page. The 'Add a payment method' section is highlighted with a yellow box. It includes fields for 'Card Number', 'Expiration', 'CVC', and 'Billing address'. Below these fields is a checkbox for 'I'm not a robot' and a 'Continue' button. The 'EBT SNAP card' section is also visible, with a note that only EBT SNAP items will be applied to the card. The 'Total' is \$18.95.

<https://shop.aldi.us/store/aldi/storefront>

If the service provider with which the user's account is maintained is the same as the service provider with which the vendor is associated, crediting the given vendor by the purchase price using funds from the user's account at that same service provider and,

For example, The reference describes **if the service provider with which the user's account is maintained is the same as the service provider with which the vendor is associated, crediting the given vendor by the purchase price using funds from the user's account at that same service provider**

The screenshot shows the Instacart checkout page. The 'Place order' section is highlighted with a green box. It includes a 'Total' of \$18.95 and a 'Continue' button. The 'Add a payment method' section is also visible, with a note that only EBT SNAP items will be applied to the card. The 'EBT SNAP card' section is also visible, with a note that only EBT SNAP items will be applied to the card. The 'Total' is \$18.95.

<https://shop.aldi.us/store/aldi/storefront>

if the service provider with which the user's account is maintained is different from the service provider with which the vendor is associated, crediting the given vendor by the purchase price using funds from the service provider with which the vendor is associated and using the bridge computer to reimburse that service provider with the purchase price using funds from the user's account.

For example, the reference describes if the service provider with which the user's account is maintained is different from the service provider with which the vendor is associated, crediting the given vendor by the purchase price using funds from the service provider with which the vendor is associated and using the bridge computer to reimburse that service provider with the purchase price using funds from the user's account.

The screenshot shows the Instacart checkout process. On the left, under the 'Delivery' tab, the address is '3200 North Valley Mills Drive, Dallas, TX 75244'. The delivery time is 'Tuesday, May 25, 8:30-9:30am'. Below this, there's a section for 'Credit or debit card' with a card number, expiration date, and billing address. A red box highlights the card number and expiration date fields. On the right, under the 'Payment' tab, there's a 'Place order' button and a summary of charges: Subtotal (\$12.44), Delivery (\$5.00), Service fee (\$2.11), and Tax (\$1.11). The total is \$10.66. A red box highlights the 'Place order' button and the total amount.

<https://shop.aldi.us/store/aldi/storefront>

These allegations of infringement are preliminary and are therefore subject to change.

10. Aldi has and continues to induce infringement. Aldi has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., payment products and services that facilitate purchases from a vendor using a bridge computer) such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1–13 of the '979 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Aldi has known or should have known of the '979 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the date of issuance of the patent.

11. Aldi has and continues to contributorily infringe. Aldi has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., payment products and services that facilitate purchases from a vendor using a bridge computer) and related services such as to cause

infringement of one or more of claims 1–13 of the ‘979 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Aldi has known or should have known of the ‘979 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the date of issuance of the patent.

12. Aldi has caused and will continue to cause AML damage by direct and indirect infringement of (including inducing infringement of) the claims of the ‘979 patent.

IV. JURY DEMAND

AML hereby requests a trial by jury on issues so triable by right.

V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, AML prays for relief as follows:

- a. enter judgment that Defendant has infringed the claims of the ‘979 patent;
- b. award AML damages in an amount sufficient to compensate it for Defendant’s infringement of the ‘979 patent in an amount no less than a reasonable royalty or lost profits, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and costs under 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- c. award AML an accounting for acts of infringement not presented at trial and an award by the Court of additional damage for any such acts of infringement;
- d. declare this case to be “exceptional” under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award AML its attorneys’ fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action;
- e. declare Defendant’s infringement to be willful and treble the damages, including attorneys’ fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action and an increase in the damage award pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

- f. a decree addressing future infringement that either (i) awards a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant and its agents, servants, employees, affiliates, divisions, and subsidiaries, and those in association with Defendant from infringing the claims of the Patents-in-Suit, or (ii) awards damages for future infringement in lieu of an injunction in an amount consistent with the fact that for future infringement the Defendant will be an adjudicated infringer of a valid patent, and trebles that amount in view of the fact that the future infringement will be willful as a matter of law; and
- g. award AML such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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